

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for the reasons set forth in the Official Action.

In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheet of the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which reference characters "A" and "B" have been changed to reference characters --I-- and --II--, respectively in Figure 3. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of minor informalities noted by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to attend to any informalities, including those kindly identified by the Examiner. In so doing, page 9, line 20 has been amended to conform with page 22, lines 15 through 17. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claims Status

Claims 3 through 9 remain pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled. Claims 3 through 9 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Again, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 3 and 5 through 8 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Claim Objection

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 3 through 9 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In response, Claims 3 and 5 through 8 have been rewritten in independent form and otherwise to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that the objection has been overcome.

Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,442,355 (Hasegawa, et al.).

The rationale underlying the foregoing rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejection

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. These rejections are now moot. Accordingly, further comment on these claims is not necessary.

Dependent Claims

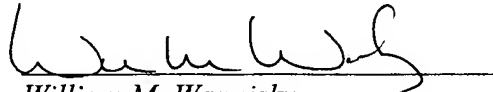
Claims 4 and 9 depend from Claims 3 and 8, respectively, and are believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining the invention.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'William M. Wannisky', written over a horizontal line.

William M. Wannisky
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

WMW\tas

DC_MAIN 198472v1